

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 161817Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3631
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

S E C R E T NATO 03421

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF WASHDC, USNMR SHAPE, USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: UNCLASSIFIED DATA BROCHURE
REF: (A) BONN 8308 (DTG 131657Z MAY 77), (B) MBFR VIENNA
231 (DTG 141456Z MAY 77), (C) STATE 93346 (DTG 260149Z APR
77)

1. WE NOTE EMBASSY BONN'S REPORT (REF A) THAT THE FRG MAY BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF PUBLISHING NATIONAL TOTALS IN AN UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION.
2. UK DELEGATION OFFICER JANVRIN, IN A DISCUSSION WITH US ON MAY 16 REGARDING UK VIEWS ON UNIT DISAGGREGATION (SEPTEL), MENTIONED THAT THE UK REMAINS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE IDEA OF AN UNCLASSIFIED PUBLICATION. JANVRIN SAID WILBERFORCE MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT IN LONDON TO DISSUADE RUTH FROM THE PUBLICATION IDEA, AND RUTH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS "FRAUGHT WITH DIFFICULTIES". THE UK NOW HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRG IS BACKING AWAY FROM THE IDEA.
3. WE SOUNDED JANVRIN OUT INFORMALLY ON WHETHER AN ALLIANCE MOVE TOWARD UNIT DISAGGREGATION MIGHT NOT CREATE NEW REASONS WHICH DID NOT PREVIOUSLY EXIST FOR AN UNCLASSI-

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IFIED DATA BROCHURE, AND DREW ON SOME OF THE REASONING IN REF B THAT SUCH A BROCHURE MIGHT INCREASE THE CHANCES OF EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF A WESTERN PROPOSAL ON UNIT DISAGGREGATION. JANVRIN PERSONALLY DID NOT THINK THAT A WESTERN PROPOSAL ON UNIT DISAGGREGATION WOULD CHANGE THE REASONS WHY LONDON HAS OPPOSED THE DATA BROCHURE IDEA. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE KEY POINT FOR LONDON WAS THAT THE WEST

WOULD HAVE NO ADEQUATE REPLY TO EASTERN QUESTIONS AS TO WHY THE WEST WAS WILLING TO PUT THE DATA IN AN UNCLASSIFIED BROCHURE, BUT NOT ACTUALLY TO TABLE IT.

4. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH VIENNA THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ANY WESTERN PROPOSAL FOR UNIT DISAGGREGATION: (A) INCLUDE NATIONAL DESIGNATION OF MAJOR UNITS; AND (B) BREAK DOWN REMAINING FORCES INTO NATIONALLY DESIGNATED COMPONENTS (PARA 4, REF B). IF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL INCLUDED THESE TWO FEATURES, WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD MITIGATE THE NEED FOR A NATO PUBLICATION OF AN UNCLASSIFIED BROCHURE. SUCH A UNIT DISAGGREGATION PROPOSAL WOULD OFFER TO TABLE DATA FROM WHICH NATIONAL TOTALS COULD BE EASILY CALCULATED, AND WOULD OFFER THE PROSPECT OF CARRYING THE DATA DISCUSSION MUCH FURTHER. AN UNCLASSIFIED NATO DATA BROCHURE PRECEDING THIS PROPOSAL, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT OFF THIS PROPOSAL, AND EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS AS SUCH. IN ADDITION, THE REASONS STATED IN PARA 5, REF C AGAINST THE UNCLASSIFIED BROCHURE IDEA DO NOT APPEAR ALTERED BY THE PROSPECT OF A WESTERN PROPOSAL ON UNIT DISAGGREGATION, AND SOME OF THESE REASONS WOULD BE CITED BY THE EAST.

5. IF THE FRG SHOULD DECIDE TO REMAIN FIRM ON THE UNCLASSIFIED BROCHURE IDEA, THE US SHOULD FOR OBVIOUS REASONS SUPPORT THIS APPROACH, AND WE ANTICIPATE THE OTHER ALLIES INCLUDING THE UK WOULD GO ALONG WITH IT. HOWEVER, IF THE FRG SHOULD ITSELF DROP THE IDEA, WE WOULD
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ANTICIPATE CONSIDERABLE ALLIED RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPTING THE IDEA, SINCE IT DOES NOT NOW HAVE ANY SUPPORTERS IN SPC OTHER THAN THE FRG. END COMMENT. BENNETT

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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